

MONTEREY NEWS

April 2011
VOLUME XLI · Number 4

Monterey Store Closing

Dear Friends,

It seems that for the past two years we have bounced from fiscal crisis to fiscal crisis. Sounds like the country as a whole, but what I'm talking about is the Monterey General Store. Just when I thought we were turning the corner the bottom fell out.

It's with a heavy heart that I bring to you the news that the store will have to close. The last two years have been a cash-flow nightmare, and now I find myself unable to pay the mortgage, along with falling behind with my suppliers. When I last wrote to you about the financial problems of the store, it was just before the national economy took a nosedive. Your support at that time helped to keep the

store afloat, but no one could predict the terrible repercussions from the economic meltdown.

The immediate problem was the loss of our sandwich trade as building projects were halted and very few permits for new projects were issued. This resulted in a change of lunch orders from ninety-to-one-hundred per day down to twenty per day. As the national problems increased,



Glynis Marsh: inset Maureen Banner

The Monterey General Store, March 30, 2011. The longtime mainstay of the community, is closing. The last music night, on Saturday, April 2, will feature many of the musicians who have played there over the years. Sigh. Thank you, Kenn . . .

we felt the financial pain in fewer visitors and those with second homes coming up less frequently. I've talked with many of you about the seasonality of the store and that it is an eight-month-a-year store. The sad fact is that during the past two years the store has been profitable only during July and August. The "leaf peepers" were fewer, and this past year's record snowfall didn't translate into more visits from the skiers. All in all, the light at the end of the proverbial tunnel has been extinguished.

I want to thank all those whose generosity over the years kept the store going. I never envisioned it ending this way, but as I seem to say more and more, "It is what it is!" I would like to say a special "Thank You" to my Kate and family. This has not been an easy journey for them. Without their love and understanding my life would be very empty. The last official day will be Sunday, April 3, although we will be open odd hours that following week as we close down. You are all invited to a final music night Saturday, April 2, from 7 to 11 pm. Many of the musicians who have played at the store wanted one more night. Should be a great night of musical chaos!

Again, thank you for all the great memories. I can't think of a better place to live. It was truly an honor and pleasure to serve you.

— Kenn & Kate Basler,
and all the staff past and present

The Town

By Sue Protheroe

Finances and Budget Planning

Steve Pullen, Town Accountant, along with the Finance Committee and Barbara Gauthier, have been attending Select Board meetings to work on the budget for the May 7th annual Town Meeting. A special Town Meeting will be held at 9:00 am, before the regular meeting to vote on special articles for the repairs on the Bally Gally house, the ice and snow overrun, and the Fire Department overrun.

The Town has only two outstanding loans (highway vehicles and the salt shed).

Director of Operations Maynard Forbes requested that the special article for Bally Gally repairs be increased to \$11,400. The chimney repair from the roof up is estimated to be about \$8,400 (the job will be put out to bid) and the remainder will cover any other repairs that might come up during the year. The chimney is still leaking water through the bricks, behind the seal that was installed. A request to transfer \$10,663.05 from free cash to the Highway Maintenance account to replace what has already been spent on repairs to the Bally Gally roof and ceiling will be made at the special town meeting preceding the annual May Town meeting.

Robert Lazzarini of the Zoning Board of Appeals discussed increases to the ZBA budget, which is currently \$2,100 and pays for postage to notify abutters. Lazzarini said the ZBA feels they need their own legal counsel separate from Town Counsel, especially in cases where Town Counsel represents the Town and not the ZBA (as is the case in the current ZBA considerations of the Select Board's requested changes to the special permit for the community center on the former Wilson-McLaughlin property so that a dog park would be allowed there). Mark Bobrowski, an attorney who deals specifically with municipal law, and has already been engaged to evaluate the town's bylaws, has also been asked to represent the ZBA. For cases held already this year, his fees will require the ZBA to add approximately \$1,000 to the \$2,100 they already have. In addition, a much-needed filing cabinet was purchased. The Select Board suggested the ZBA expense line item be increased to \$4,000.

Select Board member Scott Jenssen asked if there were any room in the budget for the Town to purchase the General Store. Because of the work of managing it, the Board was not enthusiastic. Dan Moriarty of the Finance Committee suggested that it could be operated as a cooperative and farm share.

The Finance Committee said that although it had originally level funded

MONTEREY LIBRARY

Now open Fridays

Monday.....7-9 p.m.
Tuesday 9:30 a.m.-noon
Wednesday 3-5 p.m.
Thursday 4-6 p.m.
Friday.....5-7 p.m.
Saturday .. 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
.....7-9 p.m.

Phone 528-3795

Join the Friends of the Library!

The *Monterey News* is published monthly by The Monterey News Inc, PO Box 9, Monterey, MA 01245-0009.

Eric Pedersen Construction

*Well versed in all aspects of fine construction & traditional restoration
Accomplished & resourceful craftsman
Specializing in wood, stone & classic timberframe homes & barns*

413 822-1510 or 528-3594
Over 30 yrs in & around Monterey
eric7inc@gmail.com

CSL#089323 / HIC#144849 / reg. MA Sawyer



the budget with no raises for nine town employees, they had reconsidered and wanted to give them raises as recognition that they are a huge asset to the Town, are mostly career employees, and are highly valued. Select Board Chair Jon Sylbert said that at the original meeting, it was pointed out that the Town provides the employees with exceptional health insurance and that they had opted for the insurance rather than the raises. The Select Board then voted the small raise down.

Representatives from the Council on Aging came to a Board meeting to ask how to handle a letter they had received stating that the State Council was \$50,000 short. The Board said that because this is a nonprofit, the state needed to send a bill to each of the nine towns so that they can be paid.

The Town received a check for \$2,900.14 for its participation in the Waste Management program.

Police Matters

Police Chief Gareth Backhaus reported the following Police Department activities:

- House checks, Main Road and Beartown Mountain Road (two times); nothing out of the ordinary.
- Medical assists, Tyringham Road, Main Road, Gould Farm.
- Wires down, Mt. Hunger Road.
- Took No Trespass order to Great Barrington to be served.
- Vehicle towed on Pixley Road according to our winter parking policy.
- Suspicious activity, Pixley Road.

THE MONTEREY GENERAL STORE

END-OF-AN-ERA PARTY

Our last day of business
will be Sunday, April 3.

Please join us at the End of an Era
for a jam session and one last gabfest
at the Store on Saturday evening,
April 2 • 7-11 o'clock.

SERVING MONTEREY SINCE 1780 • 528-4437

- Investigated fraudulent credit card charges.
- Trees down, Tyringham Road, Camp Half Moon Road, Laurel Banks, Chestnut Hill, New Marlboro Road, between Stevens Lake, Brett and Eaton Road.
- Well-being check, twice, Seven Arts; Beartown Mountain Road.
- Injured deer in driveway on Hupi Road; owner requested that deer not be put down.
- Logging trucks over the bridge limit on New Marlborough Road Bridge; logger agreed to make loads smaller.
- Complaint of cars harassing a resident on Blue Hill; police found nothing unusual.
- Abandoned motor vehicle, Swann Road.
- Motor vehicle accidents, General Store and Main Road.
- False alarms, Tyringham Road, Main Road, Hupi Road.
- Assisted a citizen, Abravenal Lane.
- Disabled motor vehicle, Main Road.
- Suspicious activity, Blue Hill Road, nothing out of the ordinary
- 911 calls, Blue Hill Road, Abravenal Lane.
- Received call from motorist travelling through Monterey to the Pike who was afraid she would run out of gas. Upon searching, officer could not locate the vehicle.
- Prescription pills stolen, Main Road.
- Assisted Medford Police Department with person of interest in an incident.
- Thirty traffic stops.

Chief Backhaus responded to the Select Board's request to explain the \$3,233 increase to his expense budget. This consists of \$1,920 for salaries (not pay raises, but hourly rates needed to maintain a fully staffed department), and \$1,313 for expenses (software \$210, fuel \$500, phone service \$403, and dues \$200)

The chief stated that you have to be in an area covered by cell service (unlike much of Monterey) to send a 911 emergency call. This contradicts a statement by a citizen that you can dial 911 from anywhere if you have a cell phone.

Officer Johnson attended a Select

>



Webster Ingersoll
FINE GARDENS • STONEMWORK • TREE CARE
PLANT HEALTH CARE
413-229-8124
www.websteringersoll.com

Creatively restoring,
conscientiously repairing,
sustainably re-envisioning
landscapes large and small.

Board meeting to ask the Select Board Chair to sign a MEMA (Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency) emergency preparedness grant application, which is a matching fund grant up to \$2,000. The Board agreed. Officer Johnson said the Police Department has applied for five grants in the last few weeks. One was a bike helmet grant, which we can coordinate with a bike rodeo. The department has applied for the 1033 Program, (reinstated by the governor) through which the town can receive surplus military hardware. "Click it or ticket" funding is also being applied for.

Scott Jenssen said that a couple on Camp Half Moon Road commended Officer Johnson for his professional and helpful conduct during a storm when the power lines had come down.

Highways and Operations

Director of Operations Maynard Forbes reported the following recent highways and operations activity:

- Patched potholes on Main Road and Brett Road.
- Pushed back snow banks.
- Removed dump body from 2000-550 to ready it for transfer to the Fire Department.
- Repaired 2005-550.
- Trees down, Main, Tyringham, and Brett Roads.

- Serviced the 2011-550.
- Met with MIIA (Massachusetts Inter-local Insurance Association) building insurance inspector.
- Logging issues, New Marlborough and Chestnut Hill.
- Met with new Highway Superintendent of Sandisfield.
- Of course, plowing, salting, sanding.
- Reviewed new STRAP (Supplemental Transportation Rural Assistance Program) grant program.
- Attended Highway Superintendents' Board meeting.
- Gravel and stone hauled to Mt. Hunger, Hupi, Griswold, Fairview, Cronk, Brett, Sandisfield, and Harmon Roads to repair damages from washouts.
- Attended the REPC (Regional Emergency Planning Commission) meeting at Fairview Hospital.
- Project planning for Beartown Mountain Road.
- Met with Chief Backhaus regarding emergency management grants.

Pole Hearing

The Select Board held a joint pole hearing for National Grid and Verizon about installing five jointly owned poles on Tyringham Road and relocating two jointly owned poles on Tyringham Road. This will upgrade electrical service along Tyringham Road. Anthony Corsi was

present from National Grid. Director of Operations Maynard Forbes requested in a letter that all new poles be set back eight feet from the travelled way for safety. He requested that additional poles 48, 49 and 50 be moved back off the road so they are also eight feet back; now they are only sixteen to eighteen inches back from the road. Monterey resident Jules Dahlman requested that the Tree Warden be consulted. The Board decided to continue the hearing until Corsi and Forbes can address homeowner and safety issues.

Hazard Mitigation Plan

The Select Board and Brian Domina of Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) reviewed the draft copy of the Monterey Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan. This is part of a countywide process, with nineteen communities partnering with BRPC to prepare for any natural hazards. The process started in 2009, with help from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). This plan is to prepare Monterey to apply for any hazard mitigation money should it become available in the future.

Domina met with Maynard Forbes and Police Chief Backhaus in August 2010

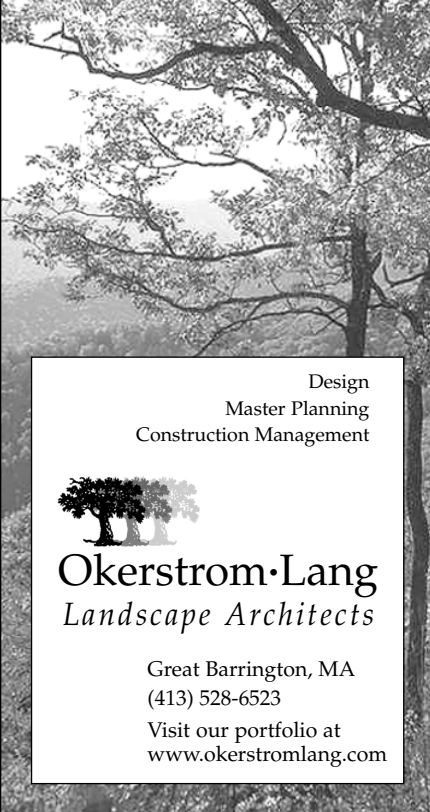
Great Barrington Cottage Company

Building Green in the Berkshires

Design & Construction
of Sustainable Energy Homes

413.528.0001
www.GreatBarringtonCottageCo.com





Design
Master Planning
Construction Management



Okerstrom·Lang
Landscape Architects

Great Barrington, MA
(413) 528-6523
Visit our portfolio at
www.okerstromlang.com

to formulate the draft. Most of the natural hazards in Monterey have to do with flooding and dams. This draft is intended to 1) identify natural hazards that will affect Monterey, 2) identify the historical data that will project recurring problems, 3) identify all existing protective measures that are already in place, and 4) recommend additional mitigation actions.

Flooding in Monterey was the focus because it is a recurring problem. The biggest flooding hazard is Lake Buel. Other problem areas are Fairview Road, Curtis Road (bridge on the Konkapot is inadequate), Wellman Road (bridge over Rawson Brook), Harmon Road (culvert inadequate to handle large flows), and Sandisfield Road (beaver activity). Scott Jenssen pointed out that the bridge on River Road noted as structurally deficient is not, because it was replaced a few years ago. The Board added two structurally deficient bridges and a dam on Beartown Mountain to the draft. Domina suggested that Monterey adopt FEMA's model for forming a floodplain overlay district. He later provided sample flood plain bylaws for some surrounding towns.

Dan Moriarty took some copies so that he could provide any information on Lake Buel. Moriarty reported that because of the efforts of the Lake Buel Prudential Committee, flooding has been prevented recently, especially during the last big storm. Plans are in place to go downstream with a wildlife management person to pinpoint where the backflow is occurring.

Moriarty wrote a request that \$4,000 be added to the budget to match the \$4,000 for Lake Garfield dam inspection and

maintenance. The request will appear as Article 18 on the Town Warrant.

Domina will be back next spring to have the Board adopt the final version of the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Town Insurance

The Select Board and Dan Moriarty of the Finance Committee met with Mick Garrold from MIIA to discuss our health insurance policy. He said there was not going to be a 20-percent increase (as the Town Treasurer had estimated in January), and that if the plan stays the same, the increase to the Town will be 9.9 or 9.7 percent. (This was based on the seven employees now on the plan; only full-time employees are eligible. At a later meeting, it was pointed out that the 20 percent increase came from a change in the number of families on the plan, and that one additional police officer had been added, not because MIIA had raised the rates that much).

Garrold said that we were offered an early renewal with a 10 percent discount in November, but the Board didn't accept it. This proposal was sent to the Town Treasurer, and the Board did not receive it until their December 13th meeting; they put it on hold so that other insurance companies would have the opportunity to bid, specifically Wheeler and Taylor.

The Town will have to respond to the new health-care legislation by 2014, which will eliminate co-pays on certain visits; the aim is to reduce barriers to preventative care. Garrold offered us a chance to do that now with a 2.5% increase on the renewal.

Dan Moriarty reported that Wheeler & Taylor couldn't be competitive for health insurance. Finally, after many discussions, the Board decided it would be best to stick with MIIA for all the Town's insurance.

This and That

At the request of the Board of Assessors, Jacob Kranz was appointed to fill Bob Gauthier's seat until the May election, at which time Mr. Kranz will be on the ballot.

Town Counsel has said that Jonathan Levin cannot be appointed as the Zoning Board of Appeals alternate, since he is only a resident and not a registered voter. The Board is waiting to see if Mr. Levin will register to vote in Monterey to alleviate the problem.

Roger Kohler, Emma Micklewright, Stephen and Mari Enoch, Amy McMeekin, and Jacob and Bridget Krans wrote expressing how pleased they are with Monterey kindergarten teacher Lynn Webster and aide Belinda Twing, and the quality of the education. They hope that this will be kept in mind when deciding the fate of the Monterey School. Letters can be viewed at the Monterey Town Hall.

The Town Clerk was requested to have a small amount of town zoning bylaws printed to have on hand for officials and townspeople who request them.

The Board granted Leigh Tryon's request to renew his earth removal permit for Tryon Construction for 2011. (Select Board member Wayne Burkhart recused himself)

Al DeVerly has resigned as Electrical Inspector. An ad will be placed in *Shopper's Guide* if the alternate, Rick Chase is not interested in the position. Until another Electrical Inspector is hired, all requests for inspections should be made through the Building Commissioner by calling 528-1443 x118.

Dog licenses are due April 1.

The annual Town Meeting will be held at 9:30 am on Saturday, May 7, at the Fire House. A special Town Meeting will precede the regular meeting at 9:00 am. An informational meeting to discuss the issues of the annual Town Meeting will be held at 7 pm at the Firehouse on Friday, April 29.



**BERKSHIRE
PROPERTY
AGENTS.COM**

413 528 6800

REAL ESTATE SALES RENTALS
MARKETING LEASING
MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT

12 RAILROAD ST
GREAT BARRINGTON

TIM LOVETT CINDY CAMPOLI
JENNIFER HARVEY-MONTANO
JENNIFER LALLY SHEA POTOSKI
DEBORAH LEVINSON
TOM LYNCH CHRISTIAN DECKERT
BILL O'LEARY DAN BELLOW

INFO@BERKSHIREPROPERTYAGENTS.COM

Telecommunications Bylaw Update

The Planning Board voted at its meeting on March 24 to submit the telecommunications bylaw revisions for inclusion on the warrant for the annual Town Meeting on Saturday May 7, 2011. The proposed revisions to the Personal Wireless Service Facilities, Towers and Repeaters bylaw that will be on the warrant is the same one presented to the Town at a public hearing on Tuesday January 25, 2011, with no significant changes made.

The proposed revisions to the bylaw would greatly expand the wireless telecommunications overlay district (WTOD) from the current area of $\frac{1}{4}$ mile within the summit of Mount Wilcox (located in Beartown State Forest) to include the entire town of Monterey. The bylaw revisions seek to strike a balance between the market demand for cell phone service and the deployment of other wireless technologies, and the protection of our natural resources and property values in Monterey. The bylaw outlines provisions made for wetlands, endangered species, streams, vernal pools, historic sites, and sites of archaeological significance, and specifies distances required from property lines, right-of-ways, school buildings, playgrounds and athletic fields, and residences. The text of the bylaw is available in print form at the Monterey Town Hall and also available for download at the town web site: <http://www.montereyma.gov>. Just click on the Planning Board link that appears on the home page and then look

under “Additional Links” on the Planning Board page and you will see “Proposed Telecomm Bylaw Changes.”

At the public hearing on January 25, and throughout our meetings this past winter, the Planning Board was presented with a lot of information from concerned citizens about the alleged deleterious effects of cell towers, with the final assertion being that the technology is carcinogenic and therefore the antennas should be sited as far from humans, especially children, as possible. Requests were made to the Planning Board to change the proposed setback from residences from 600 feet and increase it to 1500 feet. After a review of town maps and measuring districts and setbacks, etc., the Board concluded that the requests for increased setbacks would eliminate too many potential tower sites. Additionally, the Planning Board is by law prohibited from considering allegations about the health effects of radio frequencies when creating the bylaw. However setbacks can also be associated with property values and the issue was investigated as such.

As reported in the March issue of the *Monterey News*, the impact of the proposed telecommunications bylaw revisions on the Wired West project has also been a point of contention and discussion. For quick background, Wired West is a group working for the rural Massachusetts hill towns toward the holy grail of telecommunications—a fiber optic network that will provide high quality services, including Internet, phone, and TV, to rural homes and businesses. Monica Webb is one of Monterey’s representatives to Wired West

and is Co-Chair of the Steering Committee and Spokesperson and Chair of the Wired West Marketing and Outreach Committee. Webb contends that implementation of the bylaw revisions will erode community support and market share for the proposed network (which must have a subscription rate in the town in order to be built out).

Planning Board member Larry Klein, who was instrumental in writing the telecommunications bylaw revisions, is also a representative to Wired West (serving as Chair of the Technology Committee), in addition to having a long career as a professional electrical engineer. Neither Klein nor the other Planning Board members were convinced by Webb’s argument that these bylaw revisions would preclude a buy-in or community support for Wired West. We also checked with our Town Counsel, Jeremia Pollard, who stated that the bylaw may not have the effect of prohibiting a specific type of telecommunications service.

The Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 expressly states its purpose as: “To promote competition and reduce regulation in order to secure lower prices and higher quality services for American telecommunications consumers and encourage the rapid deployment of new technologies.” In working on these bylaw revisions the Planning Board worked to create a balance between Monterey, the market, and the mandate. More information about the bylaw will be reviewed in the May issue of the *Monterey News*.

— Maggie Leonard
Monterey Planning Board

TRYON STONeworks

Native Fieldstone Walls | Landscape & Excavation Services

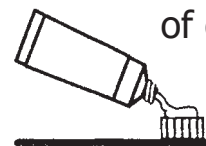
Enhance your landscape. Define your natural space.
Quality and experienced craftsmanship for 25 years

Professional stone & landscape design by Roger Tryon of Monterey, MA

413.528.4091 | berkshiremaple@verizon.net | tryonstoneworks.com

DR. JERROLD RAAB Dentist

All phases
of dentistry



528-6520

Route 23 Monterey

Report from Board of Appeals Dog Park Dilemmas

On March 22, the Monterey Zoning Board of Appeals considered the second application concerning a proposed dog park on the Wilson-McLaughlin House property (here after called “WMH” property). Seldom, if ever, has an issue generated so much concern among the residents, and seldom have the underlining issues been so confusing. In response, the editor of the Monterey News invited me to write this article that hopefully will describe some of the legal and political issues that swirl about the dog park.

The Political Context

Monterey residents strongly support the notion of a dog park in Monterey, as evidenced by their willingness to appropriate \$10,000 for a dog park fence, the attendance at the dog park hearing and the many emails we have received. But equally clear is the fact that most of the abutters to the proposed WMH dog park site are deeply concerned that the park will seriously erode their ability to enjoy their own property. This is not likely to be just a knee-jerk “not in my back yard” reaction. It is a deeply felt fear that the noise, odor, lights, and increased traffic that attend the park will negatively impact on their neighborhood and lifestyle. Monterey does not have any experience that can be drawn upon when evaluating the justification for these concerns. North Egremont’s frequently cited pleasant experience with its dog park is of little help. Their site is very unique—it is sequestered in French Park, surrounded by substantial woods on three sides, and has no visible abutters on these sides. The nearest dwelling on the fourth side, across the road, is one-quarter mile away. So the Monterey stage is set—considerable debate will attend the final resolution of any dog park proposal.

The political context surrounding the dog park dilemmas is also unusual because it places two independent and elected Town Boards in a “head to head” situation. Seldom does the Select Board have need to apply to the Board of Appeals—but when it does, it sits opposite the Board of Appeals at the conference table to consider some legal issue involving our bylaws. In these cases, the

Town Counsel cannot provide legal advice to both Boards because he “can’t sit at both sides of the table at the same time.” Consequently the Board of Appeals must retain its own separate legal counsel. This naturally brings a heightened level of concern, as in any lawyer vs. lawyer situation.

The Legal Context

In January 2010 the Town requested a special permit to allow “municipal or public service building use” on the Wilson McLaughlin house property so it could use the house as a community center. This “Use” provision usually applies to the whole parcel and all existing as well as future buildings, unless further qualified. Our Town bylaws set a very high standard for awarding special permits. It requires that such approval may be granted only if the Board of Appeals finds that permitted use “shall be in harmony with the general purpose and intent of the bylaws and that the use involved will not be injurious, noxious, offensive or detrimental to the established or future character of the neighborhood and of the Town and subject to appropriate conditions or safeguards, if deemed necessary.” Since the WMH property is large (28.61 acres) and could accommodate additional buildings that might be detrimental to the neighborhood, the Board of Appeals approved the request but attached these strict conditions:

1. The “municipal uses” granted in this decision are solely those necessary for the establishment and maintenance of a community center and garden. No other municipal use is approved.
2. Municipal uses are to be exercised only on that portion of the parcel that lies within 600 feet of its corner at the intersection of Main and New Marlborough Roads.

3. The balance of the land is to be used for municipal recreational purposes as indicated in Edith Wilson’s will.

These conditions specifically do not authorize any other type of municipal building and no other type of municipal uses. Both Town Counsel and Board of Appeal legal counsel agree that the “no other municipal use” condition precludes establishing a dog park on the property even if it was use by right because the attached conditions trump even uses by right. The park could be established on the property only if it was authorized by second special permit.

The Board of Appeals hearing of Jan 19, 2011, dealt with the request by the Town to grant a special permit for the establishment of a dog park on the WMH property under the “Municipal and Public Service Buildings” usage. According to Mass. General Law, the number and kinds of land uses are set by and enumerated in the Town bylaws. These are the only land uses allowed in any situation in the Town. There are two general classes of uses. The first are uses by right; they are rights that come with the ownership of the property. The second are uses by special permit. These are exceptions and are granted to a property owner only by special permits. Land uses that are not listed in the bylaws are not allowed. The majority of the Board of Appeals believed that of all the uses listed in the bylaws, the only one that could reasonably apply to a dog park was the use by right for “any municipal or non-profit recreational purpose” (Sec. IV.B.1.b). It seemed inappropriate to request authorization of a dog park under the “municipal and public service buildings and structures” use since the park was neither a building nor a structure, in the

>

*
DENNIS J. DOWNING
Attorney at Law
*

17 Mahaiwe Street
Great Barrington
Massachusetts 01230

Telephone: (413) 528-5040
Facsimile: (413) 528-5095
Email: dennis.downing@verizon.net

eyes of our bylaws. This belief was shared by the Planning Board (who authored and revised the bylaws) and the Board of Appeal's legal counsel, an acknowledged expert in Massachusetts's municipal law and land use. Accordingly, the majority of the Board of Appeals believes that the Select Board could, as a matter of right, establish a dog park on any land the Town owns, provided that it is not restricted, as the WMH property is, by a condition proscribing that use. Since the "by right uses" are not under the Board of Appeals' jurisdiction, the Board refused to act on the Town's application.

In order to establish the dog park at the WMH property, the conditions attached to the community center usage would have to be modified in such a way that the unintended consequences were removed and the by rights of ownership restored. At the third WMH property hearing on March 22, the Select Board sought to do just that, but in a way that made it problematic for the Board of Appeals to grant the request. The request was "to amend the conditions to allow a proposed dog park to be constructed on the Wilson-McLaughlin House property and/or to remove the conditions that 'no other municipal use is approved.'" However, the Town's request turned out not to be a simple matter of amending the conditions attached to the special permit to make them less restrictive.

The Board of Appeals' lawyer was not present at the hearings, but had counseled us in earlier emails that the Board had the authority to modify the conditions not only by either deleting the troublesome phrase or approving the dog park use, but also by completely restructuring the conditions. However, when the Board considered a restructuring of the conditions, it became clear that the majority of those present, which included six lawyers well versed in municipal law, believed our action had

to be limited by the "and/or" wording of the request and that it was inappropriate to reach beyond the request in the application—no restructuring, no substituting new phrases, no other changes. The Board accepted that position, which was the more conservative of the two. Consequently the Board would have to choose from three possible choices:

Given the wording of the request, the Board was faced with four choices:

Choice #1. Amend the conditions to allow establishment of the dog park.

An informed assessment of impact on the neighborhood by the Board of Appeals is required by Massachusetts law and the Town Bylaws whenever the Board considers requests for special permit and variances and it seems reasonable that the same requirements should apply to modifying conditions attached to a special permit. The Town has not as yet developed plans for the administration/operation and upkeep of the park; there is no adequate set of regulations and no system for enforcing them. Since there is so little information about the dog park, the Board cannot make an informed assessment of its impact. Furthermore there is an apparent contradiction in that the application asks the Board to approve a Special Permit for a dog park although dogs are not allowed in Town parks (Bylaws, Article XII, Dog Restraint).

Choice #2. Delete the troublesome phrase and add nothing new to replace this strong restriction.

All agreed that the consequences of this action would be to restore the by right uses to the property, thus allowing the dog park to be constructed, but it would also strip away the main restriction without substituting other strong restrictions, leaving the WMH property vulnerable to inappropriate municipal uses in the future.

Choice #3: Do #1 and #2.

Choice #4: Deny the request.

Given these choices, the Board unanimously chose #4—to deny the request.

Summary; Where We Do Stand Now?

As I see it, the Town can install a dog park on land other than the WMH property as a matter of right, it can apply to the Board of Appeals to modify the conditions attached to the special permit by removing the troublesome phrase and adding new restrictions, or it can develop plans for a Monterey dog park to the point that an informed assessment of its impact on the neighborhood is possible and then reapply to the Board. Admittedly, the last option will be arduous and difficult. It is likely to entail developing a complete picture of the dog park, including the administrative/operational structure, the physical plant, and the regulations governing its use.

—Robert Lazzarini

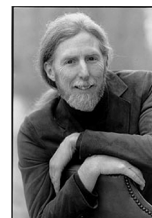
Monterey Board of Appeals

Editor's Note: The Select Board and Town Counsel disagree with the ZBA's actions, believing that the dog park is a municipal use by right and that it can be regulated by the Select Board. They believe that since the ZBA had restricted by-right uses in the original Special Permit, then, contrary to the ZBA position, those uses are under the ZBA jurisdiction and could have been amended by the ZBA.

As a result of the ZBA's decision, the future of the dog park remains in limbo.

Personal Coaching

Michael Johnson
Helping you
Actualize goals in 2011



Berkshirecoaching.com
413-528-7914

DESIGN AND PLANNING
 Residential Design
 Kitchen/Bath Design
 Construction Management
 Project Representation

413.528.4960 17 Mahaiwe Street, Great Barrington, MA 01230

New Bypass Proposed for Route 23 in Monterey

In 1972, the Town of Monterey asked the State Highway Department to take over the ownership, repair and maintenance of Route 23 in the Town of Monterey because of the condition of the highway and the cost of repairs to the Town would be way past the Town's ability to pay for the repairs. The State Highway Department said they would take it over if the Town of Monterey agreed to a bypass around the village center. The Town rejected this plan and kept ownership of the road.

Well, we are back in the same situation today. Because of the present conditions and the cost estimate in the millions, we have again asked the Commonwealth for assistance. They have replied that in order to bring Route 23 up to standards required by the Federal Highway Administration, such as a 36-foot wide traveled way, wider shoulders, and a required bike path, it would be cheaper to redirect the road and have a bypass around the center of town. They argue the bypass would be safer and cheaper to construct and would be part of a plan for an east-west bicycle path from the New York state line to Westfield.

Hearings for the proposed bypass will



Archy Tech's model of proposed parking garage.

New Parking Garage to Be Built Next to Church

Plans are now being drawn up for an underground parking garage in the center

be held in late spring with dates and times to be announced. Director of Operations Maynard Forbes said the bypass would be a good thing for the Town as it would open up new areas of Town for development and increase the tax base. If the economy

of town. Because of the congestion and lack of parking places in the center of town, the Select Board is considering taking by eminent domain the old Tryon Tea Room and the current house next to it owned by the Tryon family and constructing an underground parking garage to hold 28 cars. On top of the

garage will be a new restaurant, details of which will be released later when arrangements are final. Construction is expected to begin by fall of 2011. An archeologist and anthropologist will be on hand to sort through the teacup shards.

improves and tax revenues do increase, revised plans may be implemented, which include a causeway across Stevens Lake, two tunnels under the Konkapot River, and a scenic bridge over Lake Garfield.

(Happy April Fools Day! —Maynard)

CHARLES J. FERRIS Attorney at Law



500 Main St. Gt. Barrington, MA 01230

617 Main Rd. PO Box 63
Monterey, MA 01245

ADMITTED TO PRACTICE
IN MASSACHUSETTS AND NEW YORK

Free Consultation
on any Legal Matter

Evening and Weekend
Appointments Available

PHONE (413) 528-8900
FAX (413) 528-9132

Green Arts Garden Design

Accredited Organic Land Care Professional

Certified Horticulturist

Design-Installation-Maintenance

Ruth Green
413 528-5908

ruthgreen7@verizon.net
www.greenartsgardendesign.com

Serving Monterey for over 20 years Call Jay 528-5099

JAY AMIDON PAINTING

Clean, Orderly, and Accommodating
Staining · Painting · Interior · Exterior · Old & New

Community Gardeners at April 20 Community Dinner

Dr Andrew Cort spoke at the March Potluck Dinner on the allegorical similarities in the holy books of the major religions, leading him to postulate that these stories are symbols for human beings' own inner psychological search for meaning. We are very grateful to him for a fascinating lecture.

Last spring members of the Monterey Community Garden came to the Potluck Dinner to introduce themselves and invite people from the town to join. We invited them to come back this April to tell the community how things went, what they learned, and where the Garden is going from here. Anyone interested in the Community Garden as well as gardening in general will find this presentation informative and enjoyable. Several Community Garden members will be there to talk about their experiences, including Carol Ingher, Joyce Scheffey, Bonner McAlister, Nancy Beach, and Ruth Green.

The next Monterey Community Potluck Dinner will be held in the Fellowship Hall of the Monterey Meetinghouse on April 20 at 6 pm. Please bring a dish to share with a serving utensil and a place setting and silverware for yourself. Everyone is welcome.

—Barbara Dahlman & Kyle Pierce

Community Center News

The season is changing at last, and your Monterey Community Center committee invites you to join us for several fun and useful events coming up soon.

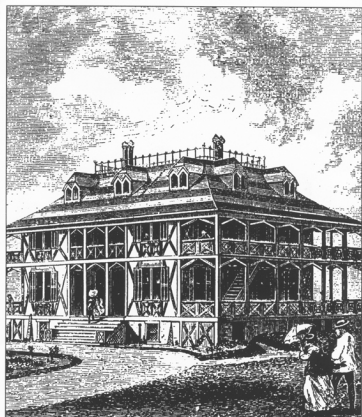
On Wednesday, April 20, members of the Monterey Community Garden will be the presenters at Monterey's monthly potluck dinner in the Meetinghouse. We introduced the Community Garden at a potluck dinner this time last year, and we were asked to come back and tell everyone how it all worked out. The short answer is, great! The garden is fully booked again this year, but we encourage anyone who has an interest to please sign up on our waiting list. We will open up some new garden plots if more people want to join, so send an email to center@ccmonterey.org soon if you would like to come and garden with us.

We are hosting two events on Easter weekend, April 23 and 24—a gardening workshop on Saturday and an Easter egg hunt on Sunday afternoon. The gardening workshop takes place on Saturday, April 23, from 10:30 am to 1:00 pm in the Meetinghouse basement. Ruth Green will present two lectures on soil preparation and organic vegetable gardening. If you are new to gardening or if you are looking to get that green thumb back in shape, this is for you. A donation of \$20, to benefit the Community Garden, is requested.

Bring the kids to an Easter egg hunt on the Monterey Library lawn on Sunday, April 24, starting at 2 pm. We have joined with the Monterey Coffee Club for this event, and we're sure you will find lots of Easter goodies tucked away in those eggs. As always this event is free.

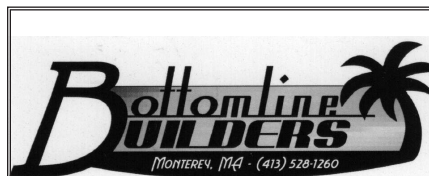
Put this one on your calendar for next month—the Community Garden will have a plant sale again this year on Memorial Day weekend. On Saturday morning, May 28, from 10 am to 12 pm, we'll be offering lots of great vegetable and flower seedlings to get your garden off to a good start. Stephen Enoch of Gould Farm has graciously offered to help us grow the plants for the sale again this year, and we can't thank him enough. High Mowing Seeds and Burpee donated these great seeds, and we're grateful to them as well. Come visit us at the Community Garden at the corner of Main Road and New Marlboro Road for tomatoes, lettuce, annual flowers, and much more. Gardening questions will be answered, beverages will be served, and all are welcome.

— Ruth Green



For those who
believe a
second home
should still be
first class

WILLIAM BROCKMAN
real estate
www.berkshiresforsale.com
413.528.4859



We are a detail-oriented, full-service, hands-on contracting and building company located in Monterey, MA. From foundation to finish, we provide the know-how to 'exceed your expectations.' Whether you want a built-in bookcase, a new sunroom, family room, or your new country home, our crew delivers the craftsmanship and courtesy you expect and deserve.



PO Box 567
155 Main Road
Monterey, MA 01245
(413) 528-1260

bottomlinebuilders.com
Scott Jenssen

scott@bottomlinebuilders.com
Massachusetts CSL 62673 - Massachusetts HIC 133864

Monterey Library Notes

Now is your chance to see the work of budding artists from the Monterey School on exhibit in the Knox Room in the library. They will be exhibiting their work until April 23. If you'd like to meet some of the artists themselves, come to the reception honoring them at 7 pm on Saturday, April 2! We thank Lew Scheffey for his wonderful exhibit.

Libby Wolff is continuing her preschooler "Book Looks" program in April. She will be here April 9 and on April 23 at 10 am. The programs are not too long due to the age of the participants, so don't be late.

Moxie is back after being away for some of the winter, and if you haven't had a chance to see the reading dog keep an eye out for the sandwich board as she has assured me she will bring Barbara back in April because Moxie misses being read to.

The Library Long-Range Planning Committee is getting a survey together to find out what services and materials you our patrons would like to see from the Monterey Library. We hope to have it out shortly, so be on the lookout. We have already added to the library as a result of the idea and effort of Jonah Carlson, our youngest committee member. He started up a Facebook page—so if you have a Facebook account, please "Like" us on Facebook. If you don't have an account, please get one and then you can like us. Thank you Jonah for getting us started!

Finally we'd like to thank Kenn Basler, who over the years loved our library enough to give out free ice cream cones as incentives for kids to read all summer. He also helped us whenever we had food needs for our kids groups and other functions and was a great neighbor. He allowed us to tap into his Internet satellite connection so we could have a Wi-Fi Internet connection for the library. He even filled in and read books to the kindergarteners on occasion when his wife Kate couldn't make it. Thanks Kenn for being such a good neighbor!

— Mark Makuc
Monterey Library Director



Lynn Webster/Belinda Twing



Joseph Enoch and Megan Loring at work on paintings for the kindergarten art exhibit, now on view at Monterey Library.

Kindergarten Art Exhibit Opening April 2

The Monterey Early Kindergarten and Kindergarten would like to welcome the whole community to our Art Opening at the Monterey Library on Saturday, April 2, 2011, from 7–9 pm! Enjoy refreshments supplied by Ken Bassler from the Monterey General Store and view several displays of art created by our class. We will show a group of collage pieces we made after studying the author/illustrator Eric

Carle, as well as some underwater scenes made with our art teacher, Donna Drew. We will also reveal our splendid self portraits! Our young artists will be attending with their proud families.

After the Opening, the exhibit will also be open for viewing during normal library hours.

We hope you will come visit our exhibit and experience the wonder of the Monterey Kindergarten!

— Lynn Webster, Monterey School



Camp Half Moon

"The Best Little Camp in the Berkshires"

Since 1922

Day Camp & Sleepover Camp

528 0940 for Brochure & Video

Boys & Girls Ages 3yrs ~ 15yrs

Heated Pool & Private Skate Park on Beautiful Lake Buel

Safe, Structured, Nurturing Environment with Mature Staff

Riding, Team Sports, Tennis, Sailing, Gymnastics, Crafts, Drama,
Waterskiing, Dance, Archery, Tutoring, Rafting & so much more!

www.camphalfmoon.com

P.O. Box 188, Great Barrington, Ma 01230

Bidwell House Museum Announces 2011 Events

The Bidwell House board and staff are pleased to share plans for the coming season, the museum's twenty-first, and invite all residents and friends to visit their history museum this year.

The season will open on Sunday of Memorial Day weekend with a concert of Revolutionary War-era songs by singer-songwriter Diane Taraz, followed by an opening reception. The Reverends Liz Goodman and Janet McKinstry will be blessing the house.

On Saturday, July 2, the museum invites all residents of Monterey and Tyringham and their friends to Township No. 1 Day, a community open-house celebration. Just like last year, there will be fun and exciting goings-on for all ages: music by Monterey and Tyringham musicians, antiques appraisals, a cake- and pie-baking contest, tours, a history talk, games, popcorn, and more. Thanks to very generous donations from the Monterey Cultural Council and the Tyringham Cultural Council, all residents are invited to Township No.1 Day free of charge. Save the date and invite friends for a fun Fourth of July holiday weekend event. Do you play music? We'd love to have you play that day. Please call us at 528-6888 or email bidwellhouse@gmail.com.

On Saturday, August 13, the place

to be will be the Bidwell House summer garden party. The gala committee is planning a beautiful and spirited afternoon of music, food, drink, and the company of many friends at the spectacular Mount Hunger Road home of Ken and Malinka Jackson. Please plan to join us for this fundraiser to benefit the museum.

Lots of interesting talks, walks, and workshops are planned as well: Professor John Demos is returning to continue his fascinating lecture series, this time discussing the Stages of Life in the 1700s in three sessions: birth and childhood, adulthood, and old age and death. Clint Elliott will return with his talk on the split between Monterey and Tyringham in 1847, Ruth Green and Michael Banner will lead an arbor-building workshop, and the museum will host a workshop and speakers in conjunction with a special exhibit of Redware pottery in August. These are just some of the highlights of our full and exciting summer program. Details will be in future issues of the *News*.

Volunteers Needed to Take Down Ice Rink April 9

Volunteers are needed to help take down the ice skating rink in the firehouse pavilion on Saturday, April 9, at 9:30 am. Coffee and donuts will be provided.

Of course, we once again hope to welcome all Montereyans to our Columbus Day weekend Pumpkin Fest too. I look forward to seeing you this summer!

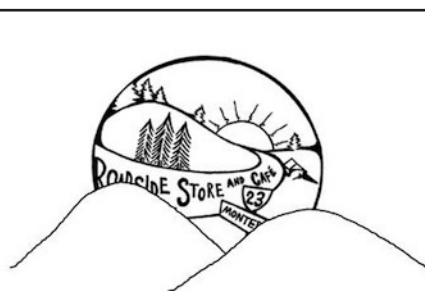
Won't you join us? Your local history museum would love to have you as a member. Memberships are just \$35 for an individual, \$75 for a family. Members visit the museum for free, get discounts at events, and receive our informative newsletter and invitations to all parties. Most importantly, your membership helps keep the museum going strong. Please visit our website: www.bidwellhousemuseum.org. Thank you.

— Barbara Palmer, Executive Director

SUSAN M. SMITH Attorney At Law

32 Corser Hill Road
Great Barrington,
Massachusetts 01230

Telephone: (413) 229-7080
Facsimile: (413) 229-7085
Email: ssmithlaw@hughes.net



The Roadside Store
and Café

Coming Soon!

(413)-528-2633
275 Route 23
Monterey, MA 01245



Solar Hot Water
Solar Electric
Back-up Power Systems
Del Martin
413 528 6580
del176@verizon.net

Green Energy Savings from the Sun!



Bonner McAllester

Who's Who in Monterey Stephen Enoch

Stephen Enoch lives and works at Gould Farm, where he is the garden manager. He serves on two Monterey town boards, works with Project Sprout students in the youth-initiated garden program at Monument Mountain High School, and takes classes through MCLA at the Berkshire Botanical Garden on subjects related to horticulture, as part of Horticultural Certification. Just now he has finished a class on greenhouse management, from pest control to specialized structures.

If you picture a man swapping hats, tools, and notebooks from one day to the next, you need to know that he also leaves the farm at 4:30 am and does morning milking at a local goat dairy two days a week, and on weekends takes care of some freelance gardening in Sandisfield. Stephen is a family man who meets up with Mari, Joseph, Elisabeth, and Philip for three meals a day. Their house looks out over the four acres of garden that are his principal work place, also the greenhouse and hoop houses next to the Harvest Barn. He has worked at Gould Farm for nearly twenty years.

Stephen says, "My role is to use our four-acre vegetable garden to facilitate the goals of the residents or guests here while they are in this department. The guests work in teams, so I'll have one garden team of six guests and two work leaders, a total of eight people. We have two goals: to help the guests become more independent and to produce food for our community."

Gould Farm is a residential therapeutic community, helping adults with mental illness. The garden is one place where they can work toward independence, and it is Stephen's job to help each person along

this path, through planning and planting, cultivating and harvesting the food for about one hundred people. In addition, the Gould Farm garden team will be working in a new CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) plan so people can buy a share and receive produce every week for twenty weeks. There will also be CSA Bakery Shares through the summer and Extended Season Shares for eight weeks of fall to mid-December. In this way, Stephen's team will contribute to the greater Monterey community, in keeping Gould Farm's commitment to the good health of the people and the land. In this its first year, the new CSA will be available to ten shareholders. Nothing will go to waste, as any extra food can be stored for use at the farm.

I asked Stephen how he came to Monterey. He said he'd been a music major in college, specializing in music therapy. After a while, he switched to psychology, with special interest in early childhood. Upon graduation he applied for volunteer positions in these fields, through the Brethren Volunteer Services, which is similar to the Peace Corps or Vista in some ways. Many on the Gould Farm staff have come to Monterey through BVS, and this was Stephen's case, too, until a position opened up in Belfast, Northern Ireland, where he could work with children.

Six months in Ireland at an Early Childhood Center taught Stephen that he'd rather start a family and have children of his own than work with them therapeutically. So he returned to Gould Farm. Stephen had kept up his music all through the college years, with tuba his principal

instrument. In Ireland he also took up the pennywhistle, so when he came back to Monterey he and three other Gould Farm staff formed the famous Bottom of the Bucket contradance band, or the Buckets. Stephen traded in his tuba for a bouzouki, which is a long-necked mandolin relative, and played pennywhistle and guitar with the Buckets for years. They were the house band for the popular Lenox Contradance series in its early years.

I sat with Stephen in the Gould Farm greenhouse with tall plants on one side, stalwarts through the winter, gracing a warm green haven for folks to visit, and flats of tiny salads on the other. We were flanked by the plants of two seasons, meeting on the spring equinox. Then I was given a tour of the indoor storage places and washing-up room, with its wall of hanging colanders, many sinks, and top-loading salad spinner (a small washing machine with a good spin cycle). Stephen gave me a CSA brochure and picked up a pair of binoculars. As we parted outside, I asked if he were going bird watching.

He smiled. "I walk up there and take a look at the distant maple sap holding tank at the bottom of a main line of tubing. If it's getting full, I'll get the tractor and go collect the sap."

Town board member, sap gatherer, mental health worker, gardener, goat milker, contradance musician, garden mentor for teens, and family man. You can tell by his smile that Stephen Enoch's work and full life in Monterey suit him. He is a man who has found his place.

— Bonner McAllester



Precision Autocraft

THE ART OF COLLISION REPAIR

High Quality Body Repair and Finishing

- ▶ Complete Collision
- ▶ Paint ▶ Glass Services
- ▶ Laser Frame Measuring
- ▶ Computer Controlled Estimating and Paint Mixing Systems

413-528-1457

1-800-734-1457

AAA Approved
Auto Body
Repair

Rt. 7 - 1939 North Main St. Sheffield, MA

A Snow Day

*The snow is glittering in the winter sky
and mother says it's probably two feet high.
The snow is as shiny as it can be,
and I think that everyone can see
how amazing snow is to me.
But while we sled down icy bumps
and we ski over snowy lumps,
we think of winter. Oh how fun
it is to play in the December sun.*

— Rebecca LaManna (age 9)

From the Tax Collector

The fiscal year 2011 Real Estate and Personal Property bills for the fourth quarter have been mailed and are due May 2, 2011. If you do not receive yours, please contact the tax collector's office (413-528-1443 x117). Please direct all questions regarding personal property tax, assessments, and abatement applications to the Board of Assessors, PO Box 488, Monterey, MA 01245 (413-528-1443 x115).

The Tax Collector's Office will be closed on April 16 and April 19.

Monterey Cultural Council Plans Many Events

Join friends, neighbors, and visitors in making Monterey a happening place. The Monterey Cultural Council has scheduled several events and has others in the planning stages at this time. Some dates are confirmed, and some are still to be finalized. The programs are varied, interesting and entertaining. There should be something for everyone to enjoy.

The lineup includes:

- Spring Nature Walk on April 23 (see p. 22) led by Monterey's lively and erudite Bonner McAllester, who will also lead another walk in the fall.
- The Art of Image Transfer, a hands-on workshop taught by Peggy Reeves (see p. 22).
- Song Writing Workshop with Robin O'Herin and Joel Schick, a two-part program with an evening of songwriting to be followed by a live performance of the material written in part one.
- Birds in Bloom, with Audubon Society's Rene Laubach: a Power Point lecture on

Friday, June 17, followed on Saturday morning, June 18, by an early bird walk.

- Hands-on Pastel Workshop led by Greg Maichak, who will also talk on "The Pastel Art of Georgia O'Keeffe."
- Township #1 Day, a celebration for Tyringham and Monterey at Bidwell House on July 2. The Cultural Council will provide music and cake and pie contest judging.
- Continuing the Independence Day theme Barbara Swann will give Power Point history talk on July 8 on "Monterey's Sons in the Civil War."
- Third annual concert by the popular trio of Liz Quelar and Seth and Joey Farber, later in the summer.
- In the fall, peak mushroom season, John Wheeler will present an evening slide show on mushrooms, followed by a morning mushroom walk.
- Monterey Makers Tour: open studios, farms, and food, December 3.

All events are free for everyone and are sponsored and paid for by the Massachusetts Cultural Council (www.mass-culturalcouncil.org) and the Monterey Cultural Council. Watch the *Monterey News* for times, dates, and locations for the events listed and/or go to the town website, www.montereyma.govsubscriber.

— Maureen Banner

"Got Rot? Need Help?"

Call the . . .

ROT DOCTORS

Saving Homes, Cottages & Barns.

We Make House Calls

413-528-1260

MA Lic. CS062673 • HIC Lic. 133864

Scott Jenssen

Since 1982

Landscape
Design



Stonemasonry

www.montereymasonry.com

Lakeside Terrace
**BED & BREAKFAST
ON LAKE GARFIELD**



24 Lakeside Terrace
Monterey, MA 01245

Owner: Meredith Oislander
413-528-3371

516-527-5371 (cell)

www.Lakesideterracebb.com

“Garden Gustation” What’s Cooking from Monterey Gardens & Farms

Gustation? The Encarta Dictionary states: “the action of tasting, or the sense or faculty of taste”

Can You Beet It?

Historically this is the time of year when hunger set in as the garden coffers became empty and the first spring eats are weeks away. Spring has finally arrived, and fortunately the days are much longer now. The spinach, lettuce, and cilantro we planted last fall in the hoop house are now ready for our first pickings, what a delicious delight. Although our quantities are waning, we still have some food left from last year’s growing season, and one of those items is beets. The beets have kept fairly well in the refrigerator vegetable drawer as well as in our garage food locker. A few beets have begun to sprout leaves, which signals to me to hurry up and eat up.

We staggered the timing of our beet plantings through the early part of the summer, which left us with a nice variety of beet greens and beet sizes. We planted both Detroit Dark Red and Red Ace because you can’t “beet” their deep burgundy color. We find the flavor to be sweet and earthy too. We pickled beets alone and also with cabbage for a delicious condiment addi-

tion to our Christmas roast duck dinner. We’ve eaten a majority of our beets over the winter simply by roasting them with the skins on with a little olive oil and some garlic cloves. I recently gathered up some ideas from an old Garden Way cookbook, *The Joy of Gardening Cookbook*, and put them together to create the following with our delicious local Monterey Chevre. Hope you like it too.

Grated Beets with Vinaigrette and Monterey Chevre

Underlined ingredients ours or local

4–6 medium sized beets, peeled and grated
(I used the food processor.)
2–3 Tablespoons butter
¼ cup water
Monterey Chevre
Your favorite vinaigrette*
Spring greens (optional)

Melt butter on medium low in cast iron fry pan large enough to hold the beets.
Add grated beets and stir to coat with butter.
Add water and stir a bit more.
Cover beets and let cook until tender (about 10–15 minutes), stirring occasionally.
Remove lid and cook off any excess moisture; increase the heat if necessary.
Remove pan from heat and stir in your favorite vinaigrette to taste.

Place over greens, if using.
Add dollops of Monterey Chevre over the top.

Serve warm or chilled.

**Vinaigrette*: I rarely measure when I make vinaigrette, but I will attempt to give some directions here. The best thing to do is taste it.

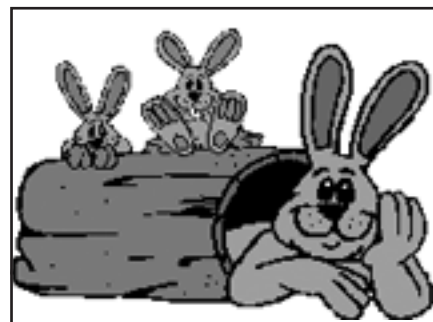
½ cup oil, canola and/or olive
¼ cup vinegar, balsamic and/or rice, or lemon juice
1–2 cloves garlic, crushed
2 Tablespoons honey
Salt and pepper to taste

Place all ingredients in a glass jar with lid and shake well; taste and make adjustments to your liking.

Thanks to those of you who emailed. One local food idea was to meet and “swap” our extra home-canned goods. Maybe we could do the same with the storage vegetables, maybe a winter “Root Crop Swap”?

I look forward to hearing more of your ideas and recipes.

— Wendy G. Jensen
wendygj@gmail.com
☺



Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 24,

At

2:00 pm

on

Library Lawn

Sponsored by
Monterey Coffee Club
&

Monterey Community Center



**Every Community
Has At Least
One REALTOR®
Like Nancy Kalodner.**

*(In the Berkshires,
it's Nancy Kalodner.)*

413-528-9595
nancybenchmark@verizon.net



BENCHMARK REAL ESTATE

Monitor, Monitor Check the Thermometer

In the sugarhouse there is a big furnace, a stove, called The Evaporator. It does to maple sap the thing that makes it sweeter and sweeter, ready to bottle and put on pancakes. The evaporator sweats off water as steam, leaving the rest behind, some of which is sugar. We human animals have evolved to love and trust sugar. Back in the Stone Age, that which was sweet was not likely to kill us. Those of us who ate the bitter or caustic things did not make it to reproductive age and our genes went with us to the grave. The lucky, or smarter, eaters lived to pass along the love of sweets. In the Stone Age, sweet things included fruits, honey, and of course maple sap. How did we know to try it? We probably saw the birds and the beasts lapping it up on the trees. We paid attention to them—they were our advertisements, our billboards.

The birds and beasts still lap sap. Gray squirrels will chew bark off a sugar maple and slurp up the sap. Sapsuckers, a type of woodpecker, usually show up

and drill holes in the sugar maples right about the same time we do. I don't think they learned it from us, but maybe.

The first folks to notice tapping and lapping in the early springwoods around here were the indigenous people, the Indians. They spotted a refinement, something that still goes on today: where a sugar maple branch is broken and the sap dripping away, an icicle will form. Birds will come and

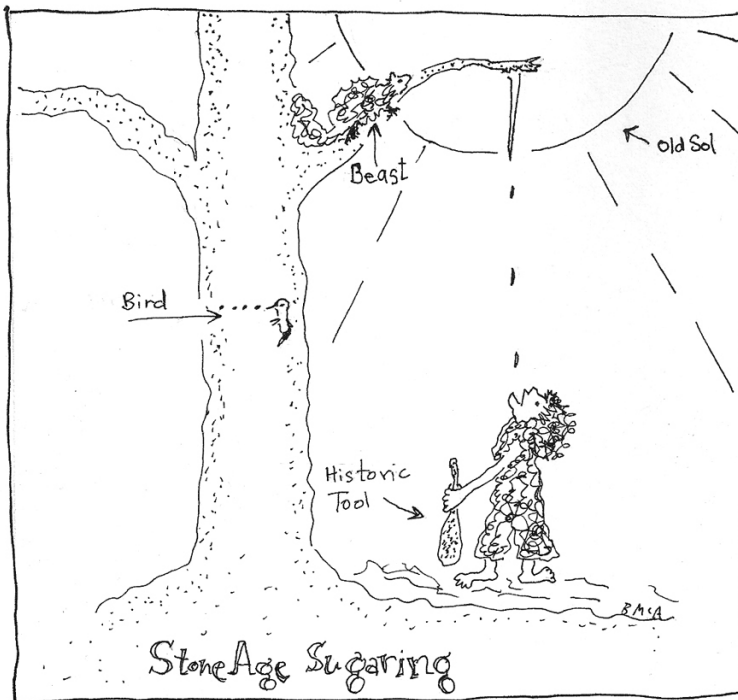
marvelous name "sublimation." Some of us know this from hanging out the laundry on a chilly day. The towels freeze stiff as a board, but later they will be dry and flappy, even though the day never thawed.

Native people at the end of the winter, when stored food was about gone and the game animals might be scarce, looked to the maples for energy, for carbohydrates, for sugar. Early European visitors with a

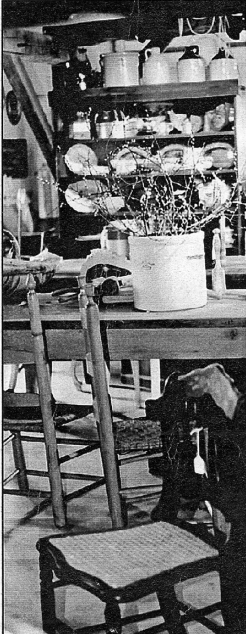
pendant for writing things down spent time in the sugaring grounds with the Indians of the Great Lakes and noted that there was enough maple sugar made in a year for each person in the community to eat over one hundred pounds. They noted that the fussy child was given a birchbark container full of sugar to gobble down. End of hunger, end of fussing.

I must shamelessly say that though I am not fussy nor hungry, I do slurp sugar in the spring. I work a shift in the sugarhouse, toting wood from the attached woodshed, dropping it on the floor by the firebox door. I range round and round the boiling

evaporator checking everything: valves working properly, hot sap not too deep or too shallow. I check the thermometer automatically, the way a driver glances in the mirrors: boiling point still well below that of maple syrup. Monitor, monitor.



drink off the tip, and squirrels will lie on the branch above and slurp up maple-ice, like a snow cone. Watching these advertisements, the Indians would try a sample. Much sweeter than sap! Ice will evaporate even if it doesn't thaw, a process with the

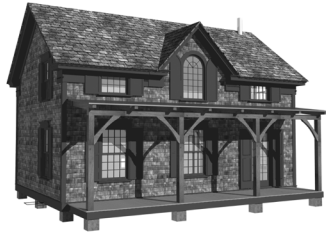


GREAT FINDS

IN THE BERKSHIRES

OVER 5,000 SQ. FT. TREASURE HUNTING UNDER ONE ROOF & ALL ON ONE LEVEL. AN ANTIQUE CENTER FOR EVERY TASTE AND BUDGET. FROM HUGE CUPBOARDS TO TINY TRINKETS, WE'VE GOT IT & MORE.

GREAT FINDS
1840 NO. MAIN ST.
ANTIQUA ALLEY
RTE. 7, SHEFFIELD, MA
413-528-8059



WEBNASH

DESIGN - BUILD

CLASSIC ARCHITECTURE MEETS SUSTAINABLE GREEN TECHNOLOGIES

MICHAEL ERKKINEN CSL #95897
(413) 644-0215
WWW.WEBNASH.COM

Take a quick walk out the door and up the stepladder to look at the supply of cold sap in the holding tank: plenty there. No chance of running dry.

The whole place smells like maple syrup, but I can't tell. My nose is habituated to it. If anyone drops by to visit, they come in the door exclaiming over the lovely smell, but I bet after awhile they won't notice either.

Monitor, monitor, check the thermometer. It is getting close. Feed the fire, check the levels, and now test the syrup for specific gravity, looking for that 65 percent sucrose that defines maple syrup. Just the right sugar content to keep it safe from fermentation, yet not so much sugar that it will crystallize in the bottle.

Now the draw. Open the spigot and run hot syrup into a stainless steel bucket, left over from our cheese-making days in the family goat dairy. We get along well without dairy now, but keep on slurping the sugar as in the Stone Age.

Hot syrup gets poured through a set of filters and then bottled, thick and amber, ready to go. The old cheese bucket hangs back on the spigot ready for the next draw, I range round and round monitoring everything. This work occupies me fully, in the moment. There is no pondering tomorrow, no fretting over yesterday. And, there is sugar. I keep an enameled cup in the sugarhouse, handy for a sweet

From the Meetinghouse . . .

Bah, Bah Black Sheep

There are times when anyone who's trying to communicate depends on metaphors. Which may be why Jesus spoke of mustard seeds to describe his experience of the kingdom of heaven, and why Buddhists put so much store in the image of the Bhodi tree, the place where Siddhartha experienced enlightenment.

Lately I've been thinking about the goats at Rawson Brook Farm. Thinking about their gifts of warmth, milk, and the, happily local, varieties of Monterey Chevre. About their joy in climbing to the top of whatever's strong, stable, and within reach. About their enthusiasm for just about anything they put in their mouths. I've come to the conclusion that goats usually get a pretty bad rap.

Maybe it's because of their position in folklore, myth, and language. Consider *The Three Billy Goats Gruff* or Pan and pandemonium. There's the aesthetic issue. "Goaty" isn't usually a desirable description of either odors or behavior. And then there's the scapegoat dilemma.

little drink now and then, and a toast to the Stone Age that brought me here, and the sapsuckers and squirrels and the sugar maple trees: then as now.

— Bonner J. McAllester

Scapegoating is a way we humans developed ages ago to cope with fear of death and threats of extinction. In times of danger, it's been our historical habit to declare one member or sub-group of the tribe unclean. That one is then designated as the scapegoat, a sacrifice to appease the gods for the benefit of the other tribal members. Whether banished, shunned, or killed, the scapegoat carries the burden of danger away from all the rest of the people.

Or maybe the cultural thumbs-down on goats depends in part on a Biblical text that warns that in end times, eventually to some, now to others, we'll be divided into camps. The text suggests we'll be tossed in with the obedient sheep, or with The Bad Guys, the rebellious goats. There's been a lot of projection built up around that text over the millennia: who's who, which is which, how to make sure each of us and everyone we love is in the right camp.

Maybe it's time to stop the projections. Time to consider our own mixed heritage as spiritual beings on a physical journey, even across group memberships and cultural lines. After all, the Russian playwright Anton Chekov advised his actors, "If you want to work on your art, work on yourself." It sounds a bit like Monterey hometown wisdom, doesn't it?

— Mary Kate Jordan





Beautifying homes in the Berkshires

INTERIOR & EXTERIOR PAINTING SERVICES
Painting • Staining • Pressure Washing
Repair of Decks, Sheet Rock & Plaster Walls

*Call now for a prompt,
free estimate:*

413-269-8948
Len Mandile

QUALITY PAINTING SERVICES

CONTRACTOR LICENSED: MASS. #147903 • CONN. #0622819

PETER S. VALLIANOS ATTORNEY AT LAW



413-528-0055

fax: 413-528-6475

email: p.vallianos@verizon.net

30 years experience in Monterey
serving your real estate needs
including purchase and sales,
zoning issues.

Board Member,
Monterey Preservation Land Trust

New location convenient to Monterey
30 Stockbridge Road (Route 7)
Great Barrington, MA 01230
(Just north of Belcher Square)

Bluebird of Happiness

The song "Bluebird Of Happiness," written in 1934, became popular after several recordings by Jan Peerce gained it national attention, and it soon became his signature tune. However, the expression itself, which associates the bluebird with an optimistic frame of mind, actually goes back thousands of years as a metaphor in the mythology of ancient indigenous cultures in far-off places,

One such culture was that of the western Navajo Indians, who saw the bluebird as sacred and spiritually linked to the light of the rising sun. They celebrated it as a living symbol by chanting a song just before dawn on the last day of winter. Today in our culture, we also celebrate symbols of other wild birds of our natural heritage on a national scale, such as the bald eagle on our dollar bill, the turkey at Thanksgiving, and the passenger pigeon as a tragic example of extermination,

What has happened to the bluebird is now of national concern. Their numbers have declined by a whopping 90 percent in the past sixty years. Severe winters are part of the problem, as bluebirds usually winter over in their normal habitat. However, the main threat contributing to their decline is competition with other birds for nesting sites. The practice of placing supplementary nesting boxes is getting mixed reviews. Just talk to Gil Schrank of Otis, who is a knowledgeable member of the American Bluebird Society as well as the New York State Bluebird Society. He says that bluebirds are delicate and choosy



creatures and poor competitors when it comes to grabbing available nest cavities. They also nest later than tree swallows and chickadees, which get there first.

Gil and his wife, Nancy Jones, who is a docent at the Bidwell House Museum, are both loyal and active supporters of the museum. Gil's most recent project is to donate and install four bluebird houses in the meadows there. After consulting with the Greenwich Audubon Society of Connecticut, he visited the Wild Birds Country Store in Great Barrington and talked with Jody Soules, the owner, whose husband

builds the houses that can be purchased there. In the meadows of the museum, two houses will be placed within five feet of each other and another pair will be placed similarly one hundred yards from the first. Hopefully, the results will be one pair of bluebirds and one pair of tree swallows or other species in each pair of boxes.

When all that happens, the Bidwell House grounds will be a happy place, just as the museum itself has become through the efforts and loyalty of supporting members.

— George B. Emmons

Christine Martin Realtor

Cell phone:
(413) 717-7217

Office:
10 Elm Street, Stockbridge, MA

(413) 298-0610 x304

cmartin@thekinderhookgroup.com
www.thekinderhookgroup.com



THE
KINDERHOOK
GROUP

We Are Where You Want to Be!

MONTEREY MAPLE

2011

Wood-fired and packed
hot in returnable glass



Made on
Hupi Rd.

528-9385

Bonner McAllester & Joe Baker

May 1 Deadline for McLaughlin-Wilson & Other Scholarships

Several scholarship funds in Berkshire County managed by Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation are accepting applications through May 1. Guideline and application information is available online at www.berkshiretaconic.org/grantseekers or by calling Berkshire Taconic at 413-229-0370.

McLaughlin-Wilson Scholarship Fund—Students who have lived in Monterey for the last two years of high school are eligible for grants, which may include awards over multiple years. Merit is the primary criteria.

Charles and Elinore Agar Scholarship—Students eligible for this \$500 scholarship are graduating seniors of Monument Mountain Regional High School who are entering their first year of a two- or four-year college or university with a particular interest in science, engineering, history, or creative writing.

Caligari Family Scholarship—\$1,000 scholarship available to graduating seniors from Monument Mountain Regional High School who are entering their first year of a two or four year college or university with a goal of pursuing a career in an art or design-related field.

Honorable James P. Dohoney Scholarship Fund—Graduating seniors from Monument Mountain Regional High School, Mount Everett Regional High School, Lenox Memorial High School, or Lee High School who are enrolled in a two- or four-year college program, are eligible for this \$1,000 scholarship. Criteria are significance of the scholarship to the student, demonstration of motivation to succeed in pursuing a two- or four-year college degree, financial need, and academic potential.

William Stanley Scholarship Fund—\$12,000 scholarship (paid over four years) to a Berkshire County resident, based on academic achievement and financial need.

Ferris Burtis Scholarship Fund—Students eligible are graduating high school seniors who are full-time residents of the Berkshire Taconic Region and have been accepted in a conservatory or school of music for the fall term 2011 to pursue a career in some form of classical music.

Guido Masiero Scholarship Fund—\$1,000 scholarship available to graduating seniors at Monument Mountain Regional High School or Manchester Essex Regional High School (Manchester, MA) who are entering their first year of a two- or four-year college or university to pursue studies in physical education, health and wellness, or business studies.

Monterey Sunday Softball

The Monterey Sunday Softball Association will soon begin another fun season at Greene Park on Route 23 behind Monterey Town Hall. Games are held every Sunday and holiday morning starting around 10:30. We invite anyone who likes to play; games are slow pitch. Our season goes from April–November.

William J. Newton Scholarship Fund—Available to residents of Berkshire County who are enrolled or planning to enroll in a two-year program at a community college or a technology curriculum in a community college, technical, vocational, or trade school.

Esther Samuels and Mabel Cornman Educational Scholarship Fund—\$1,000 scholarship for a graduating senior of Lenox Memorial High School.

West Stockbridge Grange Scholarship—\$1,000 scholarship to graduating high school seniors from Great Barrington, Richmond, West Stockbridge or Stockbridge, MA, who intend to pursue careers that will benefit their communities.

For a complete listing of grants and scholarships visit www.berkshiretaconic.org/grantseekers.



Franklin Street Associates

Dagmar Kubes

Broker associate
Superior Real-Estate service
according to your needs.

SELL * BUY * RENT
Free Market Analysis

Monterey: 413 528-6485
E-mail: dagmarrealty@verizon.net

**Spring/Summer
Clothing**

sizes newborn
to youth 14

Up to 150 families
selling quality goods!



**Maternity & Children's
Consignment Sale**

Saturday, April 9, 9:00am–4:00pm

Sunday, April 10, 9:00am–noon

(Many items will be half price on Sunday)

413-644-0104 Ext. 1159

Housatonic Community Center
Main Street, Housatonic, MA



Sponsored by
**Community
Health Programs**

Sporting Equipment
Games • Books
Toys • Videos
Furniture
Cribs and more!

Shop 'til You Drop!

Growing Perennial Vegetables

Fact is, I really love to start seeds. The idea that those little things are going to grow in their predetermined way into the food I'll eat for most of the year seems like magic. And it happens every year. As much fun as it is, the annual ritual has me wondering this—why do we put so much money and energy into growing the same thing over and over again, every year? Aren't there more perennial crops that, once started, would keep feeding us with less work? This spring seems like as good a time as any to find out.

Like most people I'm a pushover for instant gratification. Perennial vegetables do not fall into this category. Many of them require a few years to get established before they can be harvested reliably. When this kind of patience is required, I try to remember why I chose not to plant wisteria—because it takes about ten years to flower. That was twenty years ago, and I still don't have the wisteria. So maybe the perennial vegetables will have their day after all.

A few years ago I did get some asparagus going, and even sampled a few spears last year. The effort to plant and take care of them was more than worth the trouble for the taste. Of course rhubarb and horseradish come to mind, but I'm not a fan of either one and prefer to investigate perennial sources of foods that I would eat

on a regular basis. With the exception of Jerusalem artichokes, they aren't easy to find! Here are a few suggestions taken from many hours of online searching.

Nine Star Broccoli: More like a cauliflower than a broccoli, this plant produces 6–12 small white heads each spring. The leaves can also be harvested, and they taste like cabbage when cooked. Don't take too many leaves or the plant will be weakened, but be sure to cut off all the edible heads so that it does not go to seed. It grows to 2½ feet and will continue to produce for two to three more years. Nine-star broccoli is very popular in the U.K. but virtually impossible to find here, so I'm relying on choicegardening.co.uk to come through. There are other British seed suppliers that carry the seed as well.

Perennial Leeks: Unlike the annual variety, this plant forms many little bulblets at its base that will spout into new leeks. The bulblets can be left in place, in which case they will produce very narrow leeks, or they can be split off and replanted each year. Perennial leeks are very hardy and will come back for many years. You can find the bulbs at southernexposure.com for spring shipping.

Erbette Chard: Related to beets, as is all chard, this perennial vegetable was easier to find—try cooksgarden.com or bountifulgardens.org. The plant matures in two months from seed; you can either pick the leaves or harvest the whole thing down

to the base. Provided you leave the roots in place, it will resprout. Erbette chard is very hardy and will not bolt in hot weather, which makes for a great combination in a leafy vegetable.

American Groundnut, also known as Indian Potato: This search led me to Tripple Brook Farm (tripplebrookfarm.com) right here in western Massachusetts. As always, I checked them out on Garden Watchdog (davesgarden.com) and they get good ratings, so I'm going to give them a try. (If you don't know about Garden Watchdog, it's a great way to find out what experiences other mail-order gardeners have had with suppliers. No one gets my credit-card number without it!) American groundnut, once a Native American staple, produces small potato-like tubers along the roots just below the soil line. They are reported to be quite tasty and nutritious. Just don't pull them all out, and it will come back next year. Be sure to give the vine some room to climb, as it can reach heights of 8 feet.

Chinese Yam: Also known as cinnamon vine and Japanese mountain yam, it is used to make udon and soba noodles. This is a big, 10-foot-long vine, and it produces mild-tasting tubers that store well. You can either harvest some of the tubers and leave the rest in the ground to resprout next year or plant the little aerial tubers that form along the vine in the leaf axils. Either way, Chinese yam will overwinter

Thai Yoga Bodywork

Local
References



Sliding
Scale

with

KIT PATTEN

Lotus Palm School Certified

"The best massage I ever had." – E.D.,

Monterey

413-528-3798

ABC

Allentuck Building Company

Licensed & Insured Carpentry Services

in Southern Berkshire County

Home Repair Made as Simple as ABC

Josh Allentuck:

413-329-6260

Prioritize your home repair needs...

Just say HELP!

nicely. I got mine at Tripple Brook.

Chinese Artichoke: More like a Jerusalem artichoke than a Globe Artichoke. Also known as chorogi, artichoke betony, or the French crosne. These little tubers look like corkscrews and can be eaten in salads or steamed, or pickled in traditional Chinese fashion. They seem to engender love and hatred in equal measure since they are very tasty but small and tricky to clean. If you want to take the plunge, try tripplebrookfarm.com

Planting perennial vegetables requires a bit of special planning since they will be growing in the same place for years. Try to pick a spot at the edges of your vegetable garden so that you don't have to trip over them all the time. Also pay close attention to their cultural requirements, such as sun, soil type, and fertilizing, just as you would any flowering perennial. Some of the tubers will even grow well with in a part-sun location, a rare attribute with vegetables. With a little extra attention until they get established, perennial vegetables could be feeding you for years to come.

— Ruth Green

April 16 Deadline for Summer Youth Cultural Enrichment Grants

Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation has announced an April 16th deadline for applications to the Simple Gifts Fund. The fund awards grants to young people ages 8–21 for participation in cultural or creative summer programs, such as theater internships, music or art camps, or language immersion programs. Residents of Berkshire, Columbia, north-east Dutchess, and northwestern Litchfield counties may apply.

The application form and guidelines are available online at www.berkshire-taconic.org/grantseekers or by emailing programs@berkshiretaconic.org.

The Simple Gifts Fund was established in honor of Bill Crofut by his family. Bill had a deep understanding and empathy for the dreams and aspirations of young people. He wanted to do something that could help them achieve their goals and knew that even small amounts of money could help.

Organic Lawns Workshop

Homeowners are invited to learn organic lawn care methods and maintenance during the “Organic Lawns for Homeowners” workshop to be held at the Berkshire Botanical Gardens, 5 West Stockbridge Road, Stockbridge, on Thursday, April 7 from 6-9 p.m. This intensive workshop is one of 12 happening statewide, as part of “NOFA/Mass Statewide Organic Lawn Days,” hosted by The Northeast Organic Farming Association/Massachusetts Chapter, Inc., and funded by the Toxics Use Reduction Institute, UMass Lowell.

The three-hour workshop will be presented by NOFA Accredited Organic Land Care Professional Rich Lassar, owner of Nature Works Land Care, and is recommended for homeowners and anyone who cares for lawns. It will cover all aspects of caring for one's own lawn organically, including the organic approach to lawn care, soil testing and soil health, growing healthy grass, mowing, seeding, aerating and topdressing techniques, and how-to-find organic supplies, compost, and materials needed.

The workshop fee is \$25 (\$5 discount for NOFA members). For more information or to register for any of the workshops, please contact Kathy Litchfield at 413-773-3830 or Kathy@nofamass.org. Online registration is available at www.nofamass.org.



Spring Gardening Skills Workshop
Saturday, April 23rd, 10:30 am to 1:00 pm
at the Monterey Meeting House

Topics include Soil Preparation and Organic Vegetable Gardening for Beginning Gardeners
A donation of \$20, to benefit the Monterey Community Garden, is requested

for more information: www.ccmonterey.org
sponsored by the Monterey Community Center

Karen Shreefter Landscape Design

*Working with clients to create
captivating landscapes & gardens*



413.528.1387
karen@kslandscapedesign.com
www.kslandscapedesign.com

Antiques & Residential Contents Appraised

for the purposes of:
Scheduled Personal Property Insurance
Second Home Personal Property Tax
Estate Probate
Non Cash Distribution
Damage & Loss

David J LeBeau MFA
Accredited Member
American Society of Appraisers
(1978–2009 retired)

413-229-3445
davidjlebeauappraisalservice.vpweb.com

March Wildlife Report: Snow Fleas, Foxes, Bluebirds

Folks who relax about their bird-feeders all winter long have been feeling nervous, wondering when to expect the bears to come back. Now we know: the Oldses and Karen Shreefter on Blue Hill Rd. have had the big black night visitors taking down feeders on March 14 and 15, as have Cynthia Weber out on Route 23 and Will Marsh on River Road. The bears are up and about.

On Griswold Road, Mike and Maureen Banner report a small red fox "flitting" about and a fisher "zooming" through their woods and woodpile, back on March 7. There were also twenty or more cedar waxwings at their place, neither flitting nor zooming, but going about the practical business of eating up dried crabapples.

A fox has also been seen at an undisclosed site on Eaton Road. Anonymity has been requested, by sighter, for the fox.

Steve Snyder went skiing in McAllester Park, Great Barrington, late in February and saw one of those remarkable otter toboggan trails through the snow, twenty feet from one set of paw prints to the next. He also saw his first snow fleas then, those little invertebrates that show up like dark hopping specks right about the time some of us are drilling holes in the sugar maples.

Barred owls are back in the woods at Gould Farm, Steve says, probably a nesting pair he thinks. Meanwhile, Joel Schick had a spectacular barred owl visitor in a tree right off the back porch. Though the



Joel Schick

smaller birds paid no attention to the big winged predator, four crows heckled the owl until it flew off deeper into the woods. Once the crows left, the owl returned to its preferred perch, right there by the house. (See photo.)

At the end of February, Cheryl Zellman of Tyringham Road spotted a pileated woodpecker at her place. She saw another one, or maybe the same one, on Beartown Road near Riverwood, and Steve Snyder saw one around that time, but over in Great Barrington, which is when he also saw two bluebirds.

Sue Protheroe reported robins and red-winged blackbirds returned back to the Lake Buel neighborhood, March 2.

On March 15, Cora Baker and Bonner McAllester saw a splendid turkey vulture, flying low across a small meadow on Hupi Road. It went right overhead. And then on March 20, Joe Baker was in the top of a golden russet apple tree when he heard and then saw a pair of bluebirds, flying around the orchard, checking out the bird boxes there.

Thanks for your wildlife reports! Call 528-9385 or email bmca@berkshire.net.

— Bonner McAllester

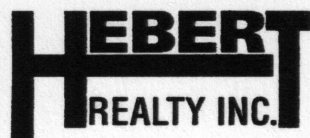
Spring Woods Walk with Bonner McAllester April 23

The Monterey Cultural Council invites you to a walk in the woods, from 10 am until noon on Saturday morning, April 23. Bonner McAllester, one of Monterey's long-term local Nature Bugs, says she prefers "doors to windows because they open and let you get outside." Come along outside with her and learn about the vernal pool, the beech drops, the porcupine cavern, and other wonders.

All ages are welcome on this walk, but the group size is limited to twelve. Call John Heffernan at 413-644-9235 for location and directions, and to register.

Image Transfer Workshop with Peggy Reeves May 21

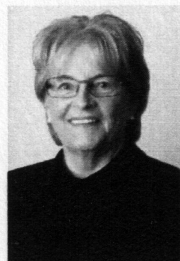
Sign up now for the Image Transfer Workshop on Saturday, May 21, 2011, sponsored by The Monterey Cultural Council. Image Transfer is a popular technique used by artists working in photography, collage, book arts, watercolor, and mixed media. Participants will find this three-hour workshop will open new creative pathways of expression. For more information and to sign up call Peggy Reeves at (413) 528-2446 or email to PEARL465@gmail.com by May 1.



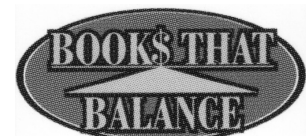
*"Condos
to
Castles"*

P.O. Box 924, Monterey, MA 01245
20 Stockbridge Rd.
Great Barrington, MA 01230

Office (413) 528-3440
Fax (413) 528-1588
Cell (413) 717-0066



LINDA HEBERT Broker
CBR, CRB, CRS, GRI, SRES
E-mail: hebertrlty@aol.com
www.HebertRealty.com



Books That Balance
Bookkeeping Services

Darlene Balestro

10 Stevens Lake
Great Barrington,
MA 01230

413.528.3944
413.446.4547

booksthatbalance@yahoo.com



Gould Farm Landscapes And Beyond

"Be it known that these lands and woods are sacred to Gould Farm. They have kindled the healing in many, and by God's will, may they continue to do so in many more to come. Be open to their blessings and please treat them with respect."

These wise words were painted on a commemorative wooden plaque by a guest at the Farm about twenty years ago.

A display has been organized by Claudette Callahan and me in the antique "Kibbe's Candies" display case on loan from the Monterey Historical Society at the Harvest Barn. It is in the room adjacent to the sales desk, and the room is open from 9 am to 3 pm on Saturdays and Sundays. Do come and enjoy a coffee or tea and homemade pastry and learn about our Model Forest designation, Diane's Trail, the healing power of trees and more. You will see some old photographs, including one of Benton MacKaye and his sister Hazel.

Hazel MacKaye was a talented pianist and a guest at the Farm during the 1920s and 1930s. Benton befriended the Farm, corresponded often, and made periodic visits here. In one of his letters is a "Memorandum for Mrs. Gould Concerning the Gould Farm Woodland" dated May 29, 1945. In it he states that:

"For purposes of psychological rehabilitation, the forest influence is upmost. It is the environment of calm as against that of confusion. To obtain this

fully on any given acreage of woodland requires keeping the forest canopy intact and letting the best trees grow to their climax in old age but thinnings and improvement cuttings can and should be made.

Perhaps better known as the founder of the Appalachian Trail, Benton MacKaye was a forester, regional planner, and author. The Appalachian Trail passes through Monterey, as many of you know. Over the past twenty years, we at Gould Farm have helped maintain a three-mile section of the trail between Monterey and Tyringham. This provides appropriate historical continuity.

A cocreator of our display, Gould Farm Board Member Claudette Callahan continues to volunteer hours of her time each week organizing the Gould Farm archives.

Do visit the display, walk Diane's Trail and see the new bridge, designed and built as a graceful arch by Jon Greene. We are blessed with many trails in our town and the Berkshire region. After a snowy, cold winter, spring is upon us and the great outdoors beckons.

— Robert J. Rausch

Summer Hours at Transfer Station

With the time change to Daylight Savings Time extended hours have gone into effect at the Monterey Transfer Station. Summer hours are Wednesdays and Saturdays 8 am to 1 pm and Sundays 10 am to 6 pm.



Zumba on Tuesdays

A Zumba class has begun at the Monterey Firehouse on Tuesdays from 5:30–6:30 pm. Zumba is a Latin-inspired dance fitness class that incorporates Latin and international music and dance movements, creating a dynamic, exciting, exhilarating, and effective fitness system. It combines fast and slow rhythms that tone and sculpt the body using an aerobic/fitness approach to achieve a unique blended balance of cardio and muscle-toning benefits. The class is open to everyone; come and join the fun. The cost is \$10 per class. For more info contact Michelle at mthel-lig@hotmail.com.

Ian McAlister Airman of Year four Times Over

Ian McAlister, son of Stephen and Rosemary McAlister of Chestnut Hill Road, Monterey, was recently given the following awards by the 104th Fighter Wing, Massachusetts Air National Guard:

- Airman of the Year for his Squadron (a few hundred people);
- Airman of the Year for his Group (about 600 people);
- Airman of the Year for the Fighter Wing (about 1200 people);
- Airman of the Year for Massachusetts! Well done, Ian!



Artists & Artisans Studio Spaces Available

Charming, Bright & Airy. High Speed Internet.

470 sq.ft @ \$195. per month; 890 sq.ft. @ \$295. per month;
1100 sq.ft. @ \$395. per month

Storage Spaces also Available
affordable – safe – secure – climate controlled
call Neuma or Hank at 413 229-7704

P. O. Box 9, 01245

Thanks to Road Crew

To The Editor:

A quote by Winston Churchill, "Never have so many owed so much to so few," comes to mind when contemplating the outstanding effort by the Monterey Highway Department during this most challenging winter.

The highway crew worked day and night to keep our roads cleared and safe. They deserve our grateful appreciation. Thanks, guys and let us hope the worse is over for this year.

— Sandra S. Collins
Gould Farm Staff Member

What a Joy!

To the Editor:

On Saturday afternoon, February 26th, after a bout in the hospital recovering from a minor stroke, I finally got to see my art show at the Monterey Library. I was overjoyed. I want to thank Mike and Maureen Banner, Mark Makuc, the Library staff and Board of Trustees. And thank You, Kenn Bassler, for braving the ice between the General Store and the Library bearing delectables for the Opening, as I heard you did.

I want especially to thank Julie Shapiro and Mike Banner. While I was in the hospital Julie and Mike came to our house, selected a bunch of paintings from the hundred or so around the house, and lugged them to the library; and somehow they managed to pick perfect ones for the



Joyce Scheffey

Lew Scheffey visiting exhibit of his paintings in Monterey Library.

space and the exact right number too. It's a beautiful space, and Mike and Julie hung the paintings to perfection.

It's a wonderful thing at my age and with my recent infirmity to have such a lovely show come to me out of the blue — and to have all the heavy lifting done by such good friends. Thank you, all.

— Lew Scheffey

Cell Service Saves Lives

To the Editor:

Earlier this year a young man was involved in a single vehicle accident in Monterey. He died. I do not know if he died on impact. I do not know if he lived for a time and suffered, dying without being able to make a call for help. I do know that he is dead. I do know that the option to call for help was not available to this man.

This is not the only incident when availability of cell service might have eased suffering, saved lives. I remember the plane crash in Beartown that devastated a family. The father survived an almost daylong search for the wreckage. In the end both

parents and two children died. Three other children were injured, orphaned. Might the results have been better if they were able to reach out for help? I do not know. I do know that all who walk our beautiful, but remote country roads are in danger of injury with no chance to reach for help. I do know that this is unacceptable today, especially in a town as caring as Monterey.

I sympathize with anyone who feels they suffer from electro-hypersensitivity (EHS). But I have read the symptoms of EHS and none seem fatal, none seem new or even uncommon.

I have at least half a dozen of the symptoms, as did my Grandmother long before cell service. I am reminded of the escalating incidents of autism, a horrible condition affecting an increasing number of children. Scientific study placed blame on vaccines given to infants. Parents stopped vaccinating their children. Some children fell ill to diseases which had been all but eradicated. Some died. The scientific study was based on falsified data. Is the same true of the data presented on EHS? I do not know. I do know that not all data are reliable.

If, by the choice of the citizens of Monterey, one person dies, or suffers needlessly, because the opportunity to make use of technology available world wide was not available in Monterey, then we are all guilty of inflicting unforgivable suffering on humanity.

Please help us all. Come to town meeting and vote for passage of the expansion of the telecommunications overlay district.

— Carolee Jervas

Henry Reeve of the Buggy Whip Factory presents

Revolutionary Floor Finishing

*** Half the Cost of Traditional Sanding
* One Day Service * No Dust * No Fumes**

***Dedicated to saving & enriching the patina
of your valuable wood floors***

413 229-7704 www.fixmycountryhome.com

**G. E. MUNSON
SATELLITE**



**DISH NETWORK
DIRECTV
HD ANTENNA SYSTEMS
HOME THEATER &
STEREO SYSTEMS**

**call or fax George
(413) 258-4887
email: munsonsat@aol.com
P.O. Box 923, Monterey, MA 01255
(fully insured)**

Coming to A Pole Near You

You might not know this little secret. Personal wireless carriers see the "Right-of-Way" as a refuge from zoning regulations. Right-of-Way is designated, by zoning, as those areas in which the utilities are allowed to have their equipment. Verizon was provided right-of-way access when installing phone service. Verizon equipment falls into two categories, landline and personal wireless, which are each regulated separately. The U.S. Congress clearly distinguished between "telecommunications services" in Section 253 of the 1996 Telecommunication Act and "personal wireless services" in Section 332(c) of the same act. Landline includes Broadband (DSL), cable, and fiber optic facilities as well as traditional telephone and telegraph utilities. Personal wireless services include Wi-Fi and are devices that can go almost anywhere, including on utility poles. Both landline and wireless are regulated by the Telecommunication Act by "local zoning authority." However, a town's franchise authority is in the Right-of-Way, which applies to landline, only, and not personal wireless services. The more we understand this distinction and our rights, the more we can retain our regulating authority.

We, townspeople, never had a chance to understand the distinct differences in zoning regulations or the 1996 act before Verizon installed the recent technology. When the town signed up for high speed Internet, Verizon referred to it simply as "Broadband/DSL." In the town minutes going back to 2005 there was only mention of high speed Internet and no mention of Wi-Fi. In the brochure that came with the DSL equipment there is NOT one mention of Wi-Fi or the

Contributors

We thank the following folks for their recent contributions.

Chandler Crawford
Paul J. Carnese
Mr & Mrs Walter G. Farnham
Leslie & Richard Roth
Darlene Balestro
Rosalind & Richard Kaufman
Morgan Schlich
Karen & Mel Selsky
William Bennett

fact that the DSL router is also a microwave base station. Verizon slipped this little secret in under the guise of what was allowed by the former provisions of zoning. However, what was ignored or untold was the fact that Wi-Fi was not intended to be included in the provisions of Right-of-Way zoning under the 1996 act. Unbeknownst to us, and placing our trust in the carrier, we set a precedent by naively allowing Verizon to begin its rollout of Wi-Fi along with DSL. Verizon, masterfully, back-doored it, leaving us with limited authority regarding any future wireless installation, unless we make the corrections in our bylaw now.

Unless this is corrected in our bylaw, distinguishing between landline and personal wireless services with proper zoning for each, the very first cell tower or antenna site our community denies will leave us open for legal battle. Telecommunication carriers will argue that we allowed Verizon wireless in without permits, so how can we deny a cell carrier?

The Concerned Citizens Group is asking for more education and information before we slip any further down this slope.

— Sandra Chianfoni & Laura Catullo

Helaine & Jerry Green
Seth Kershner
Donald Victor
Ann & Alvin Richmond
Lois & John Ryder
Laura & Tom Mensi
Arlene Tolopko
Kathryn & Marc Roberts
Fran & Dean Amidon
Laurie & Gary Shaw
John & Estella Bodnar
Carol J. V. Fisher
Mrs Helen Heller
David Logan
Gladys M. King
Sandra Preston
Osborne Dugan
Joseph Menker
Marvin Sachs
Mr & Mrs Feldman
Robert Adams
Rev. Arthur Monk
Nancy G. Torrico
Candide & Ray Coddington
Clarence & Nancy Hall
Leona Chamberlin
Carol De Harak
Mr & Mrs Nicholas Wool
David & Judith Kaprelian
Marion Leach
Colleen Johnson
Howard & Pat Nourse
Cathy Roth & Vicki Reed
Jules Dahlman
Peter & Joan Brown
Al & Nancy Banach
Phyllis & Mark Cash
Samuel Estreicher

Mad Scot

Small Engine Repair

Lawn Mowers
Tractors
Tillers
Chain Saws
Snowblowers

Many years' experience on all types of small engines.

Chains and blades sharpened.

Don Clawson
Box 26
Monterey 01245

Pickup and delivery.
Local service.
Reasonable rates.

(413) 528-3257



Mike & Barb's
"Top to Bottom"
Cleaning Service
Quality home cleaning by
an experienced husband
and wife team
413-229-2998

Remembering Curtis R. Hougland

Curtis Rives Hougland passed away on February 24, 2011. He was the kindest man, a rare constant in the lives of everyone he met. He was a generous giver, who gave without any expectation of return or recognition. Humble and strong, Curt was the rock we stood by. And if wisdom indeed comes from what you don't say, rather than what you do say, he was the wisest of men.

Curt grew up in Kansas, played football at the University of Colorado, and graduated from the University of Southern California, after serving in the Navy. He met the love of his life, Sylvia, at Yellowstone National Park. Last July they celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary with their family, Kim, Bill, Madeline, and Sam; Curtis Jr., Debra, and Oliver; and friends from Kansas to New York City to Los Angeles to Kansas City to The Berkshires to Dallas.

He had a career in manufacturing, becoming the owner of UniVogue, a successful company in Dallas that he sold in 2004. He was an avid golfer, traveler, and sailor. He believed in justice, campaigned for Barack Obama in Colorado, and understood that all of us who benefit from society must give back.

Our loss is great. Our gain from knowing him is far, far greater. A Memorial Service was held on March 4 in Dallas.

Remembering Kristine Heath

Kristine Jan Heath, 50, of 42 Berkshire School Road, Sheffield, died Tuesday, March 22, 2011 at home. She was born in Holyoke on January 25, 1961, daughter of Kenneth R. Heath Sr. and Gail Lanoue Heath. She was a 1978 graduate of Mount Everett Regional High School.

Kristine most recently worked in the deli department at Price Chopper. She had also worked at Agway, Taconic Lumber, and Brooks Insurance. She was active in 4H and was a high school cheerleader and an honor student; while in high school she was elected to the Who's Who Society of American High School Students. She excelled in horseback riding and showed at the Eastern States Fairgrounds. She was also a Candystriper at Fairview Hospital.

Besides her parents Kenneth Sr. and Gail, she leaves her maternal grandfather, Joseph Lanoue, of Monterey; one brother Kenneth Jr. of Sheffield; one niece, Sherri Heath; and a good friend, Mark Little of Monterey. Kristine was predeceased by her long-time companion of fourteen years, David Keefner.

Funeral services were held on March 25; burial was in Corashire Cemetery. Expressions of sympathy in Kristine's memory may be made to the American Diabetes Association in care of the Birches-Roy Funeral Home, 33 South Street, Great Barrington, MA 01230. Condolences may be made through birchesroyfh.com.

Music in Otis April 30

On Saturday, April 30, New York City trio Liz Queler, Seth Farber, and their son, Joey Farber, will perform music they have written to the poetry of Edna St. Vincent Millay. The concert, which highlights their latest CD, aptly named *The Edna Project*, is sponsored by the Otis Cultural Council. The event highlights the April celebration of National Poetry Month and runs the musical gamut of folk, bluegrass, rock, and jazz. The free performance will start at 7 pm at the Knox Trail Inn, 1898 East Otis Road. This is a terrific opportunity for both young and old to come together and enjoy good music for the entire family. For more information, call the Otis Cultural Council at 413-269-7416.

Otis Festival Call for Artists!

The Otis Cultural Council invites artists and craftspeople for the Fourth Annual Otis Arts Festival, Saturday, July 23, 9 am–3 pm, at Farmington River Elementary School, Otis. The entry fee is \$20 (Otis residents), \$25 (non-Otis residents). Applications are available online at www.townofotisma.com/culturalcouncil, or at the Otis Town Hall. For information, email Otis-cc@hotmail.com.



MONTEREY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday Service · 10 a.m.
in the Meeting House

Elizabeth Goodman, Pastor

For Information and Assistance:

413-528-5850

www.montereychurch.org

The Harvest Barn Bakery at Gould Farm



a full service bakery featuring homemade
Pastries • Cakes • Breads • Desserts
we also do special cake and dessert orders

Open Saturdays and Sundays
from 9am to 3pm
located on Gould Rd. in
Monterey MA
413-644-9718



Calendar

Every Monday except holidays: Select Board meeting, 7 pm, Town Hall.

Every Sunday: Slow-pitch Softball, 10:30 am, Greene Park.

Every Tuesday: Zumba Class, 5:30–6:30 pm, Monterey Firehouse. \$10/class. See p. 23.

Saturday, April 2:

Last Music Night, General Store, 7–11. Monterey School Art Opening, 7 pm, Monterey Library. Come meet the artists and see their work. See p. 11.

Thursday, April 7: “Organic Lawns” workshop, 6–9 pm, Berkshire Botanical Gardens, Stockbridge. \$25. See p. 21.

Saturday, April 9:

Volunteers needed to help take down ice skating rink, 9:30 am, Firehouse Pavilion. Coffee and donuts will be provided.

“Book Looks” for preschoolers, with Libby Wolff, 10 am, Monterey Library. See p. 11.

Thursday, April 14: Free Blood Pressure Clinic with Berkshire Visiting Nurse Assoc., Town Hall, 2–3 pm.

Saturday, April 16: Deadline for applications to Simple Gifts Fund for grants to young people ages 8–21 to participate in cultural or creative summer programs. See p. 21.

Monday, April 18: Patriots Day, Town Offices, Library closed.

Wednesday, April 20: Community Potluck Dinner, 6 pm, Monterey Meetinghouse Fellowship Hall. Program will be presentation on Monterey Community Garden. See p. 10.

New Monterey News Distribution Box

Since the Monterey General Store is, alas, closed as of April 3, readers who have been picking up the *Monterey News* in the store may be wondering where to get their copies now. The answer has been provided by Stephen Moore, who has graciously and skillfully built and installed a new distribution box on the front porch of the store. Look for the *News* there or at our other distribution points—the Monterey Library, the Town Hall, and the Roadside Store (scheduled to reopen soon).

Saturday, April 23:

Spring woods walk led by Bonner McAllister, 10 am–noon. Call John Heffernan at 413-644-9235 for location and directions, and to register. See p. 22.

Gardening Workshop: two lectures by Ruth Green on soil preparation and organic vegetable gardening, 10:30 am–1:00 pm, Meetinghouse basement. \$20; see p. 10.

“Book Looks” for preschoolers, with Libby Wolff, 10 am, Monterey Library.

Square and contra dancing, 8:30–11:30 pm, Dewey Hall, Rt. 7, Sheffield. Music by Mountain Laurel, caller Joe Baker. All dances are taught; beginners and children are welcome. Adults \$8–10, children \$5. Information 528-9385.

Sunday, April 24: Easter; Easter Egg Hunt, 2 pm, Monterey Library lawn.

Friday, April 29: Informational meeting on annual Town Meeting Warrant, 7 pm, Monterey Firehouse.

May 1: Deadline for Wilson-McLaughlin

The Observer

February 26–March 25

High temp. (3/5).....51°

Low temp. (3/3) 3°

Avg. high temp. 41.3°

Avg. low temp. 23.1°

Avg. temp. 32.2°

Total precipitation

(rain and melted snow) 6.02 in.

Snowfall 4.6 in.

Precipitation occurred on 21 days.

Snowfall season to date 137.8 in.

Monterey News

The *Monterey News* is an independent nonprofit corporation dedicated to fostering communication in the Monterey community. Our editorial address is P. O. Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs. Submissions may also be left in the drop box on the loading dock of the General Store. Address requests for advertising rates and further information to the Editor, or telephone us at 413-528-4347 or e-mail montereynews9@gmail.com.

Scholarship and other applications, open to Monterey residents. Information or applications: www.berkshires-taconic.org/grantseekers or 413-229-0370. See p. 19.

Saturday, May 7: Annual Town Meeting, 9:30, Monterey Firehouse.

Curtin Roofing/Carpentry

Certification #1850
Fully Licenced & Insured

Matthew A. Curtin, Owner

62 Main Road
Tyringham, MA 01264
Tel. 413-441-9687
FAX 413-243-2124

**ROOFING
PROFESSIONAL**

Orchid Blossom
Healing Arts
Classical Acupuncture
Zen Shiatsu



Lauren Paul, Dipl. Ac.
Licensed in CT and MA

Call for an appointment
413-258-4296

MONTEREY NEWS

PO Box 9

MONTEREY, MA 01245-0009

Nonprofit Organization

U. S. Postage

PAID

Monterey, MA

Permit # 7

Change Service Requested

Rick Mielke

Seasonal Caretaking

Professional Year-Round Maintenance
of Your House and Grounds

Celebrating over 30 years in business

528-0864

We Return Your Calls

Since 1975 • Fully Equipped • Fully Insured

P. O. Box 211, Monterey, MA 01245

Copyright © Monterey News 2011

email: montereynews9@gmail.com

Editor..... Will Marsh

Asst. Editor Glynis Marsh

Reporter..... Sue Protheroe

Mailing Labels Joe Baker

Treasurer Mari Enoch

Contributions from local artists this month:

George Emmons, p. 18; Bonner McAllester, p. 16.

Buying or selling your home in the Berkshires?



Call us

Nancy Dinan
413-528-0014

Deborah D. Mielke
413-528-1871

e-mail: corashire@aol.com

Corashire Realty, est. 1966

To see our Monterey Listings please visit
www.corashire.com

Also use our link to view other offerings in MLS.



BIZEN

Freshest Sushi Quality Fish • Organic Vegetables
Japanese Estate Sakes • Unfiltered Dessert Sakes

備前
On the Cutting Edge

"Where to Eat Sushi" in the Berkshires.

The New York Times

Gourmet Japanese Cuisine & Sushi Bar
17 Railroad Street, Great Barrington, Mass.

413-528-4343

Lunch Mon.-Fri. 12:00-2:30; Sat. & Sun. 12-3:00 • Dinner 7 Days 5-10